



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.  
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION  
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

# Press Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Attorney General McGraw and Marion County Car Dealer Reach Agreement on Misleading Free Gasoline Offer**

Attorney General Darrell McGraw announced today that his office had entered into an agreement with Exit 132 Pontiac-Buick-GMC, a car dealership located in White Hall, West Virginia. In August, 2008 Exit 132 Pontiac-Buick-GMC mailed consumers a flyer that stated the consumers had won a car, cash prizes or a card redeemable for \$250.00 in gas or other merchandise at participating service stations. Consumers were instructed to take the solicitation to the dealership to find out what they had won. **Consumers who "won" the \$250.00 gas card quickly discovered that there were strings attached.**

Instead of receiving a gas card valued at \$250.00, consumers were given a voucher to complete and mail to FreeBeeGas.com. They were also required to pay a \$5.00 refundable activation fee and wait up to 6 weeks for their voucher to be processed. Only then did consumers discover that in order to obtain their "free" gas, they first had to purchase \$100.00 of the same brand of gas and send their receipts to FreeBeeGas.com. For every \$100.00 worth of receipts they mailed to FreeBeeGas.com, they received a \$25.00 gift card. In other words, consumers had to spend \$1,000.00 in order to receive the full value of the offer.

"It is unlawful to advise consumers that they have won something and tie any other requirements to the receipt of the prize," stated Attorney General McGraw. "The dealership also failed to advise consumers of all the hoops they would have to jump through to get their free gas - a clear violation of the West Virginia Consumer Credit and Protection Act."

Exit 132 Pontiac-Buick-GMC has made arrangements with two gas stations in the White Hall area to provide \$250.00 in gas to consumers who file complaints with the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division by March 16, 2009. In order to qualify for relief under this settlement, consumers must have received the free gas card promotion from Exit 132 Pontiac-Buick-GMC in August 2008, must provide proof that they paid the \$5.00 activation fee to FreeBeeGas.com, and must file a complaint with the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division on or before March 16, 2009. Consumers who meet these requirements will receive a gift card from Exit 132 Pontiac-Buick-GMC with a value of \$250.00 that will be redeemable at two (2) Fairmont Exxon stations.

"Consumers must always be wary of offers for free gifts and remember that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is," warns Attorney General McGraw. Consumers may request forms to file complaints with the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division by calling 1-800-368-8808 or download a complaint form at [www.wvago.gov](http://www.wvago.gov).

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